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SOURCE Meditinskiy Rabotnik.INTRACUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION OF PENICILLINF. Slipenko,
Cand Med Sci
Gor'kiy

Resorption of penicillin from the thickness of the skin proceeds more slowly than from other tissues. In a number of inflammatory diseases, it is of advantage to apply penicillin by introducing it intracutaneously. After administering penicillin by this method, we found by determining the content of the antibiotic in blood that a therapeutically active concentration of it is retained during 8 hours. After this point, no further determinations were made. Intracutaneous administration of penicillin was applied in cases of erysipelas, phlegmons, lymphangitis, thrombophlebitis, epididymitis, mastitis, etc.

As a rule, a few hours after penicillin had been administered, or on the next day, the patients experienced relief, the temperature and local inflammation diminished, and complete recovery took place after two to four injections.

In severe cases of erysipelas of hairy parts of the head, face, or chest the first injection resulted in a much paler color of the skin, while the temperature often dropped to normal and the well-being of the patient increased. Recovery followed after the second or third injection.

The method proposed by us is effective in cases of severe edemas and infiltrates, when the skin is affected by the inflammatory process.

In chronic afflictions like epididymites which continue for a month or longer, while the skin is not affected, no improvement can be seen after three or four injections, but the patients experience alleviation of pain.

Intracutaneous administration of penicillin can be applied alone or in combination with surgery when suppuration is present. If edema and hyperemia do not disappear for a considerable time after the suppuration pocket has been opened, two or three intracutaneous injections of penicillin stop the inflammation.

The mechanism of the action of penicillin which had been injected intracutaneously apparently bears a similarity, as far as the nature of the effect is concerned, to that of the novocain block, quartz /ultra/violet lamp/ irradiation, and "nonspecific" therapy in general, except that the effect is more prolonged in this case.

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